

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, previously omitted elements (13a, 13b, 13c and 17a) are added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends claim 3. Now pending in the application are claims 1-3, of which claim 1 is independent. The following statements address all the ground for rejection and place the pending application in condition for allowance.

Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 2 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner passing the claims to allowance.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(b). The Examiner notes in the Office Action that the drawings must show every feature specified in the claims, but the plural cells connected in series are not depicted in the drawings. In the forgoing amendments to the drawings, Applicants amend Fig. 1 to illustrate the cells (13a, 13b and 13c) connected in series. Applicants also amend the specification to add the reference characters (13a, 13b and 13c) in the corresponding descriptions. No new matter is added.

The drawings are also objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p). The Examiner notes in the Office Action that reference character “17” is used to designate a total voltage estimating device, a control device and a regeneration control device. In the forgoing amendment to the drawings, Applicants amend Fig. 1 to designate the total voltage estimating device using separate reference character “17a.” Applicants also amend the specification to add the reference character (17a) in the corresponding descriptions. No new matter is added.

With respect to the regeneration control device, Applicants amend claim 3 to change the regeneration control device to the control device. The term “regeneration control device” is not used any more in the pending application. In light of the foregoing amendments to the drawings, specification and claims, Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Claim Objection

Claim 3 is objected to because of minor informalities. The Examiner notes in the Office Action that the limitation "the regeneration control device" is not positively cited in claim 1. In the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants amend claim 3 to change "the regeneration control device" to --the control device--, which is cited in claim 1. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claim 3.

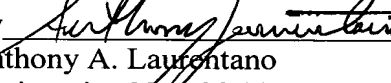
Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. SIW-070 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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